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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____
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Commission on International Jewish Affairs

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March 3, 1983

Senator William Armstrong
140 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Armstrong:

We would like to call your attention to the case of Gerardo Maria Brugo Marco.

Around midnight on March 23, 1981, Gerardo Maria Brugo Marco, a 42-year-old taxi driver, was seized on his way home in Buenos Aires by a group of men whose appearance and actions were characteristic of agents of the security forces. From that moment on, his family has heard no word of him. They laid an official complaint about his arrest and "disappearance" at the 23rd Federal Police station and also filed a writ of habeas corpus which, as with almost all such writs filed since 1976, was rejected by the courts. In November 1981, after all other channels had failed, the family presented the case to the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights in Buenos Aires.

Mr. Brugo Marco studied chemical engineering at the University Litoral. He was employed as a bank teller but because of "political-labor problems" he became a taxi driver. Divorced, he is the father of two children, Maria Pia, 11 years old and Pablo Ernesto, 5 years old. He is an Argentine citizen and of the Catholic religion. He was also a member of the Peronist Youth (junentud Peronista).

The response from the Argentine government to our requests about prisoners has been very gratifying. However, the government's response to requests to provide information on the "disappeared" remains discouraging. They have made no attempt to answer the question as to whether these people are alive or dead.

We would appreciate your requesting clarification of the whereabouts of Gerardo Maria Brugo Marco and assurances of his physical safety. Also, we would like you to request the Argentine government to do everything possible to dispel the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the "disappeared," to establish their whereabouts and allow their families access to them.

Sincerely,

Steve Arent, Chairman, Argentine Prisoner Project

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